requested to replace Level Crossing (L.C.) No. 541 instead of 543 by ROB which has been agreed to by Railway.

(b) Rs. One lakh.

(c) The Railways will take up the bridge proper and the Government of Kerala will execute the approaches after the General Arrangement Drawing is finalised.

(d) No action has been taken by the State Government so far.

Reduction in Rail Fares

1162. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Ministry is considering proposal to reduce fares in upper classes in respect of Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the proposed reduction in fare is likely to be extended to other trains and other classes of travels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

CAG Report on Railway Zones

1163. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has reportedly stated that his decision on zonal reorganisation did not cover Eastern Railway alone, but almost all the existing nine Zones, except the Northeast Frontier Railway;

(b) whether it is a fact that his above unilateral decision has neither the support of CAG report nor Rakesh Mohan Committee's recommendation on creation of new Zones;

(c) whether the implications of Zonal bifurcation have led to tension between Bihar and West Bengal; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to review Zonal reorganisation matter, afresh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The decision to create new Zones was taken by the Government in 1996-98. In Pursuance thereof, the new Zones are now being made fundtional, as per notifications issued. The entire reorganisation of Zones covers not only Eastern Railway Zone, but all the Zones except Northeast Frontier Railway.

(b) While comptroller and Auditor General had called for reconsideration of Government's earlier (1996-98) decision taken for creating new Zones, there is no recommendation of Rakesh Mohan Committee on creation of Zones, except for a passing remark, terming the decision as an example of mixing policy with implementation without examining the subject in detail. It was neither a part of their terms of reference nor part of recommendations.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Stoppage of Trains at Dabra Station

†1164. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some suggestions are pending for the last one year with the Railway Board for stoppage of Punjab Mail, Jhelum Express and other long distance trains at Dabra Station under Jhansi Division of Central Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether creation of a stoppage at Dabra Station which is an important business centre, would be in the public interest; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Rail Board thereto?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.